

### Remarks

This application is a divisional of prior Application No.: 08/801,085, filed July 29, 1996. This preliminary amendment is written in response to the Election/Restriction requirement of October 26, 1999. This application is drawn to an audio conferencing system, Invention II as identified in the Election/Restriction requirement. All claims drawn to a computerized interactor system, Invention I have been canceled for this application.

Claims 24, 26, 31 and 33-35 have been amended. Claims 1-23, 25, 27-30 and 37-48 have been canceled. New claims 49-90 have been added. No new matter has been added by the amendments or the new claims. Therefore claims 24, 26, and 31-36 are pending.

Claim 24, as amended, is a system for controlling a computerized audio application system using control members. The system of claim 24 requires a network of workstations each having a field receptive to said control member, an interface coupled to said field and operative to develop an identity signal representative of said identity of said control member, and a processor coupled to said interface and receptive to said identity signal, said processor processing said identity signal to develop a control signal for a system to be controlled. These limitations were brought in from dependent claim 28 as filed, which as a result has been canceled.


New claims 56-68 are directed toward a method for controlling a computerized audio conferencing system. Support for the inventions of claim 56-68 can be found, for example, in Figure 10 and the description on page 16, lines 11-35.

New claims 69-90 are directed toward a system and method for controlling a computerized audio conferencing system requiring a two dimensional detection board. Support for the inventions can be found, for example, in Figure 11a, lines 1-24.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable. Therefore Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued at an early date. Applicant believes that all fees have been included in attached check, but should the examiner find the amount insufficient, the examiner is authorized to charge additional amounts to deposit account #02-3964, client number 60231-300104. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Dated: 15 May 2001

Respectfully submitted,  
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Please find the marked up version of the claims as follows:

24. (Once amended) A system for controlling a computerized audio conferencing system comprising:

at least one physical control member having an [identifiable] identity; and

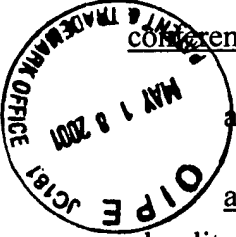
a network of workstations, comprised of a plurality of workstations, each having a plurality of fields receptive to said physical control member[;], an interface coupled to said field and operative to develop an identity signal representative of said identity of said physical control member[;] and a processor coupled to said interface and receptive to said identity signal, said processor processing said identity signal to develop a control signal for a computer system to be controlled;

wherein said audio conferencing system comprises a microphone and a speaker for audio communication between said network of workstations for each of said network of workstations, said audio application system being responsive to said control signal from said computer system to provide at least one audio sound having a volume and a directional characteristics which is based on said physical control members being selectively operated for reception by said field.

26. (Once amended) A system for controlling a computerized system as recited in claim [25] 24 wherein [said] a status of said physical control member is determined by a function of a position of said physical control member received by said field and of a time said member is one of received and removed by said field.

31. (Once amended) A system for controlling a computerized system as recited in claim 24, further comprising a plurality of control members for reception by said fields and wherein each of said fields comprises a plurality of positions at which a respective [ones] of said plurality of physical control members may be selectively manually placed and removed thereby to provide a plurality of selectable and changeable arrangements of said plurality of control members at said plurality of positions of each of said fields.

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33. (Once amended) A system for controlling a computerized system as recited in claim 24 wherein said control member comprises identification circuitry and wherein each of said fields comprises internal circuitry adapted for connection with said identification circuitry of said control member, said internal circuitry of each of said fields being coupled to [said] a corresponding interface.

34. (Once amended) A system for controlling a computerized system as recited in claim 33 wherein each of said fields comprises a plurality of positions at which said physical control member may be selectively manually removably positioned in order to at least temporarily connect said identification circuitry of said control member with said internal circuitry of [said] a particular field of said plurality of fields.

35. (Once amended) A system for controlling a computerized system as recited in claim 34 wherein said particular field comprises at least one channel having a slanted surface for supporting said control physical control member and wherein [the] said computer system comprises a plurality of magnet elements for biasing said physical control member into a selected position.